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Claims

1. Data communication system (1) having a plurality of computers
(5, 15a, 25) and an administrative computer (31)
5   c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
prior to the updating of software stored on one of the computers
(5, 15a, 25) or, as the case may be, on a storage device (8, 18,
28) assigned thereto, data indicating which transmission medium
is to be used for exchanging data used for updating or, as the
10   case may be, for controlling the updating process is exchanged
between the respective computer (5, 15a, 25) and the administra-
tive computer (31).

2. Data communication system (1) according to Claim 1
15   c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
the data indicating which transmission medium is to be used for
exchanging data used for updating or, as the case may be, for
controlling the updating process is exchanged over a predeter-
mined transmission medium which can differ from the transmission
20   medium indicated.

3. Data communication system (1) according to Claim 2
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t hat
the predetermined transmission medium is a telephone connection
25   set up between the administrative computer (31) and the respec-
tive computer (5, 15a, 25).

4. Data communication system (1) according to one of the preced-
ing Claims
30   c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
the indicated transmission medium can be an internet connection.

5. Data communication system (1) according to Claim 4
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t,h a t
35   the indicated transmission medium can be a fixed internet connec-
tion and in that the IP address assigned to the respective com-
puter (5, 15a, 25) is a fixed IP address permanently assigned to
the respective computer (5, 15a, 25).

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6.   Data communication system (1) according to Claim 4
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
the indicated transmission medium can be a temporary internet
5   connection and in that the IP address assigned to the respective
computer (5, 15a, 25) is a temporary IP address not permanently
assigned to the respective computer (5, 15a, 25).

7.   Data communication system (1) according to one of the preced-
10   ing Claims
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
the indicated transmission medium can be a telephone connection.

8.   Data communication system (1) according to one of the preced-
15   ing Claims
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
it is ascertained by the respective computer (5, 15a, 25) which
transmission medium is to be used for exchanging data used for
updating or, as the case may be, for controlling the updating
20   process.

9.   Data communication system (1) according to one of the preced-
ing Claims
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
25   an additional computer (4), in particular a server computer, is
provided, with at least one file required for updating the data
being stored on said additional computer (4) or, as the case may
be, on a storage device (34) assigned thereto.

30   10. Data communication system (1) according to Claim 9
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
the additional computer (4) is a TFTP server computer or a web
server computer.

35   11. Data communication system (1) according to one of the preced-
ing Claims
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t

software-updating control data is exchanged between the respective computer (5, 15a, 25) and the administrative computer (31) over the predetermined or indicated transmission medium.

5   12. Data communication system (1) according to Claim 11
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
the software-updating control data indicates the precise time at which updating is to be performed.

10   13. Data communication system (1) according to Claim 11 or 12
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
the software-updating control data indicates a call identification, in particular a telephone number or IP address or, as the case may be, URL address, assigned to the additional computer
15   (4).

14. Data communication system (1) according to one of Claims 11 to 13
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
20   it is conveyed with the aid of the software-updating control data which transmission medium is to be used for exchanging data between the respective computer (5, 15a, 25) and the additional computer (4).

25   15. Data communication system (1) according to one of Claims 9 to 14
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
the transmission medium used for exchanging data between the respective computer (5, 15a, 25) and the additional computer (4)
30   corresponds to the transmission medium indicated for exchanging data used for updating or, as the case may be, for controlling the updating process.

16. Data communication system (1) according to one of Claims 9 to
35   15
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
the transmission medium used for exchanging data between the respective computer (5, 15a, 25) and the additional computer (4) is

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ascertained separately by the respective computer (5, 15a, 25)
and can differ from the transmission medium indicated for ex-
changing data used for updating or, as the case may be, for con-
trolling the updating process.

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17. Data communication system (1) according to one of Claims 9 to
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c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
the file which is required for updating the data and stored on
10   the additional computer (4) or, as the case may be, on the stor-
age device (34) assigned thereto is transmitted to the respective
computer (5, 15a, 25) over the indicated or, as the case may be,
separately ascertained transmission medium.

15   18. Data communication system (1) according to one of the preced-
ing Claims
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
the computer (5, 15a, 25) is a telecommunication system.

20   19. Data communication system (1) according to Claim 18
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
the data requiring to be updated is communication-control soft-
ware.

25   20. Data communication system (1) according to Claim 18 or 19
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
the computer (5, 15a, 25) is part of a data network (A, B, C) and
functions as a central computer (5, 15a, 25) for the data network
(A, B, C).

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21. Data communication system (1) according to Claim 20
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
the data network (A, B, C) is connected to at least one further
data network (A, B, C) so that an aggregate network is formed,
35   and in that the respective computer (5, 15a, 25) initiates updat-
ing of data stored on a computer (5a, 5b) of the further data
network (A, B, C) or, as the case may be, on a storage device
(8a, 8b) assigned thereto.

22. Computer (5, 15a, 25) embodied and set up in such a way that
it can be used as a computer (5, 15a, 25) in a data communication
system (1) according to one of Claims 1 to 25 and embodied and
5   set up in such a way that it ascertains which transmission medium
is to be used for exchanging the data used for updating or, as
the case may be, for controlling the updating process.

23. Method for updating software stored on a computer (5, 15a,
10   25) of a data communication system (1) or, as the case may be, on
a storage device (8, 18, 28) assigned thereto, with the data com-
munication system (1) additionally having an administrative com-
puter (31)
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t
15   prior to the updating of the software stored on the computer (5,
15a, 25) or, as the case may be, on the storage device (8, 18,
28) assigned thereto, data indicating which transmission medium
is to be used for exchanging data used for updating or, as the
case may be, for controlling the updating process is exchanged
20   between the computer (5, 15a, 25) and the administrative computer
(31).